



WYVERN GUARDIAN

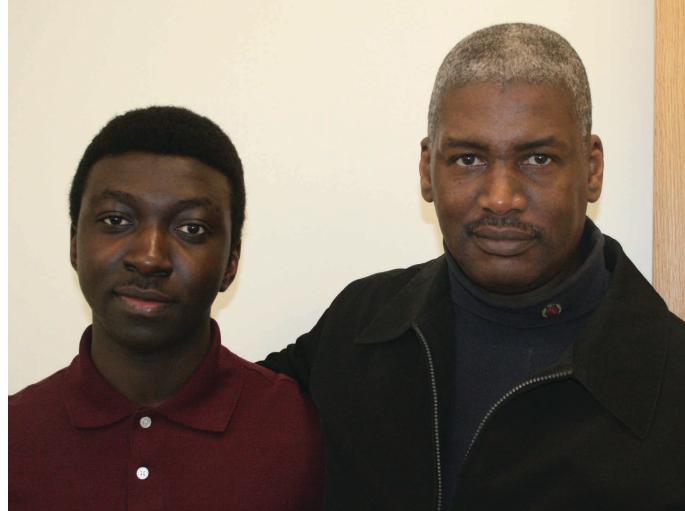
• THE NEWSLETTER OF QUINSIGAMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE •

TRIO Student Ato Howard Accepted for New M.I.T. Research Program

Congratulations to Mr. **Ato Howard** of Worcester, a Biomedical Engineering Major who was recently accepted to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's new i-Trek program (I Turn Research into Empowerment and Knowledge). Mr. Howard, a TRIO Student Services participant, was searching for "an opportunity to conduct research. This program will provide additional skills that will give me an edge as a transfer student." (Mr. Howard hopes to transfer to M.I.T. after he graduates this May.)

The new i-Trek program provides under-served and under-represented students with the skills and resources necessary to succeed in STEM undergraduate and graduate degree programs. The new program was developed to address the lack of diversity among STEM degree recipients and provides research opportunities which may not be readily available to students at smaller institutions. In addition to research, the program requires that participants fund their research projects collaboratively beyond MIT's initial 50% funding; participants will learn about grant and proposal writing as part of the process.

Mr. Howard will spend two weeks in Florida this June with M.I.T. Ph.D. candidates as part of a team researching a coral-reef based chemical. After completing the research, teams (called Trekkers) will be responsible for final presentations of their work, which will also be presented to local high schools with the specific goal to stimulate more



QCC Student Ato Howard with Joseph Adams, TRIO Project Director

interest in STEM fields among under-represented and under-served groups.

Mr. Howard is a Phi Theta Kappa International Honor society member, a Psi Beta Psychology Honor Society member and an on-campus math tutor. He is also the first college student in his family, who is of Ghanaian descent. Of his i-Trek opportunity, Mr. Howard says that he is "very excited to see other parts of the country and do research for the first time." **Joseph Adams**, Project Director of QCC's TRIO Program is proud of Mr. Howard's recent acceptance into the i-Trek program saying, "Ato is a very goal-oriented, hard-working young man who couldn't be more deserving of this opportunity. We wish him well."

Photo: Institutional Communication



Left to right: Edward Haddad, Lee Horton, Leslie Horton and Amy Mosher

Photo: (above/below) Media Services

National Entrepreneurship Week Brings Speakers Forum to QCC

On Thursday, February 20, QCC hosted The Entrepreneurship Speakers Forum at the HLC, presented by the QCC Business Club. Faculty, students and staff attended the event that included a panel of outstanding business men and women who discussed their personal experiences with innovation and entrepreneurship in celebration of National Entrepreneurship Week. The panel included Edward Haddad, Manufacturing Operations Leader and Consultant; Lee A. Horton, President, Leading Edge Attachments, Inc.; **Dr. Leslie Bollinger Horton**, Dean of Mathematics and Science and Amy R. Mosher, Strategy and Innovation Leader, Workforce Central Career Center.

Jean McLean, Associate Professor of Business Administration and Coordinator for Business Related Programs welcomed attendees and introduced panel members. Panelist Edward Haddad holds 16 industrial patents and described himself as “being passionate about returning manufacturing to the United States.” Dean Leslie Horton, also a patent holder, discussed the patent process while speaker Amy Mosher discussed resources available in greater Worcester for starting a business. Ms. Mosher

led her presentation with a motivational quote attributed to Henry Ford, “Whether you believe you can or cannot, you are right” as the impetus to the positive thought process necessary for success in entrepreneurship. Lee Horton, husband and business partner to Dr. Leslie Horton in their company, Leading Edge Attachments, presented a video on



their patented invention, “The RedAttach Prosthetic Leg Attachment Assist.” The Forum concluded with a Question and Answer period.

If you missed the Forum, you can view it (“Entrepreneurship Speakers Forum”) at:
www.QCC.edu/wyvern-media



STARFISH Introduced at QCC

QCC has purchased Starfish Early Alert, an early warning and student tracking system, after extensive research of various early alert systems. The new Starfish product makes it possible to take a more holistic approach to student success rather than concentrating solely on students with classic at-risk characteristics at admission.



Research has shown that Starfish is becoming the preferred Early Alert product by many colleges and universities in Massachusetts.

In addition to other various retention and completion efforts across campus, Starfish will allow QCC to add a technology/communication component to flag and alert students when they may be in danger of failing ***OR*** when they have had positive accomplishments.

The Starfish Core Team pictured left, left to right: **Eric Saczawa**, **Lupe Lomelli** (Functional Leads) **Jane Shea** (Executive Sponsor) rear: **Elsie Newmame** (Project Scribe), **Ken Dwyer** (Technical Lead), **Colleen Doherty** (Project Manager) and **Pat Schmohl** (Technical Lead)

are viewing the current semester as a time to learn more about the product, offer professional development to all potential users (faculty, staff and students) and to implement a pilot with 4,000 of our current students. After the initial pilot is complete, the goal is to expand usage to all students, as well as faculty and key staff.

(Missing from photo: **Wayne Brink**, Technical Lead, **Ingrid Skadberg**, **Amy Beaudry** and **Ellen Andrews**.)

For more information on Starfish, go to www.starfishsolutions.com/sf/earlyalert.php

New SALT Web Site Provides "Seasoned" Financial Advice for QCC Students

During the first week of March, QCC will launch SALT, a new web site developed by the non-profit organization, American Student Assistance (ASA), to help students become better informed about their financing choices and better prepared to fulfill their loan commitments.

SALT provides a comprehensive approach to responsible borrowing designed to empower college students and alumni to confidently approach, manage, and pay back their student loans while gaining financial skills for life. The multi- and cross - functional site will provide



SALT Cont.

students with access to the tools and information they need to make smarter borrowing decisions before, during, and after college. Admissions, Advising, Academic Departments, the Business Office, Career Services, Enrollment and Financial Aid and will all share information designed to assist students across departments to make sound financial decisions. Through in-depth, on-line courses and one-on-one counseling opportunities, students will better understand their loan options, gain real-life financial skills, and learn how to stay on track with loan repayments. In addition to financial literacy, the site offers information on

scholarships, work skills, internships, financial aid, the pros and cons of borrowing, credit scores, credit card debt, budgeting and much more.

Iris Godes, Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management who spearheaded the project said, "This new site has a vast amount of beneficial information for students. I'm very excited for its implementation and for our students to begin using it. We're fortunate to have a great partner in ASA that understands the importance of educating students on financial literacy. We expect this new tool will improve retention due to the increased financial management resources and counseling support."



Left to right: Nancy Barile, Regional Assembly Chair, Iris Godes and Ed Klotzbier, Regional Vice President, College Board New England Regional Office.

Iris Godes Honored by College Board

Congratulations to Iris Godes, Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management, who was recently honored with the College Board New England Regional Assembly Community College Recognition Award. Ms. Godes received the award at the College Board's annual New England Regional Forum in Boston on February 14.

The award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated outstanding past or present service to community college education while affiliated with a College Board member institution in the New England Region. Nominees have shown to exemplify high standards, commitment, accomplishment and service through his or her length, breadth and quality of contributions to community college education.

Sabbatical Leads Liz Woods to Haiti

Liz Woods, Dean of Students will be traveling to Haiti with QCC staff and Respiratory Care Program students to meet the needs of the people of Grande Guave, Haiti at Mission of Hope international. They will connect to the local medical clinic where they will work with children and have also committed to raising money for a food distribution in the village. While there, the group of 11 will measure more than a ton each of rice and beans and distribute to the people in the village and in the hills. Respiratory Care Program students will be working on their Senior Projects.

Ms. Woods leaves for Haiti on March 18 and returns March 25. In the meantime, she will meet with similar institutions that provide volunteer service opportunities to their students, as well as study best practices in an effort to create a frame work for volunteer service at QCC. She will also meet with the Gingle's, from Rutland who built the Be Like Brit orphanage in memory of their daughter Brittany who died on her service trip to Haiti. For more information on Mission of Hope, visit www.mohintl.org. To donate to the fund, visit www.gofundme.com/6z8ap4

Ms. Woods said recently, "I know QCC to be a very generous place, and more than well acquainted with Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. I am confident we will meet this need. I am most grateful for your support!"



Artwork by Ashleigh Kasper

QCC Students Artwork Selected for 10th Annual College Show

Congratulations to Applied Arts students **Ashleigh Kasper**, **Brian LeDuc**, and **Jamie Spidle** and QCC student **Denival Barreira**, whose works were recently selected for the Tenth Annual College Show at ArtsWorcester. The show exhibits the best artwork of the area's college students, regardless of their major. This year's juror was Nick Capasso, Director of the Fitchburg Art Museum. Honorable Mention went to QCC Applied Arts Alum, **Mauro DePasquale** who is on the QCC Applied Arts Advisory Board and a current student at Anna Maria College. The show runs through March 15 at the Aurora Gallery at 660 Main Street, Worcester. For more information on the show, visit artsworcester.org.

QCC's KidSeal Program Garners National Press

Congratulations to the Dental Hygiene Program and **Professor Joyce Cooney** for coverage in the American Dental Hygienists' Association magazine, *access*, on the KidSeal Program. This year marks the 14th Anniversary of the program founded by Professor Cooney as a service learning component for Dental Hygiene students. To view the article online visit:

www.QCC.edu/in-the-news

In addition to *access*, *Dimensions of Dental Health*, also a national publication, covered the KidSeal story on their website at:

www.dimensionsofdentalhygiene.com/ddhright.aspx?id=+18170

MAR 2014

adha American Dental Hygienists' Association www.adha.org

access

Pre- and Prenatal Patients

28 MAR 2014

QCC dental hygiene student Alison Cheon (standing) with QCC student Melaine Denny (seated) providing service for a student at Lakesview Elementary School, Worcester, Mass.

Quinsigamond Community College's (QCC) community-based dental program is celebrating its 14th anniversary. Initiated by Professor Joyce Cooney, RDH, BS, MEd, in 1999, it is a service learning component of the dental hygiene lecture services and education to children from Worcester public schools. The service learning component for students in the oral health professions at QCC offers free dental care to underserved, disadvantaged children. The dental clinic is open to all children in the QCC dental program, students and community volunteers provide the free services. QCC and the Central Massachusetts Quinsigamond Community College have been serving Lakesview Elementary Schools, for many children, their experience at the QCC Dental Clinic, is the first time they've ever received dental services.

All children receive a medical/dental evaluation, prophylaxis, sealants, and fluoride treatment. If needed, orthodontic evaluation and braces if necessary. Emergency and restorative dental work are both new additions to the services offered.

"Some children arrive at our clinic with undiagnosed oral infections and other dental problems that can lead to life threatening situations if left untreated. For these children, dental care can literally be life-saving."

QCC dental hygiene students bring new toothbrushes, floss, stickers, a timer for brushing and a better understanding of the importance of oral health. Dental community volunteers and QCC staff from QCC, as well the satisfaction of giving back to the community."

Source: Quinsigamond Community College



VITA Program Now in Seventh Year

For the seventh consecutive year, QCC student volunteers are offering free tax assistance for low-income residents of the community. The free, IRS certified program, called the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA), is hosted by the Main South Community Development Corporation (CDC). QCC volunteers assist eligible residents with free E-Filing, opening bank accounts to be able to receive fast refunds and more. This tax season, QCC volunteers began taking appointments in January and will continue until April 11.

Carol Murphy, Accounting Professor leads the program as she has since its inception and says that the program is "...a wonderful opportunity for our students to get some hands on experience while helping our community."



High School Students Compete in 2013 VEX Robotics Tournament at QCC

Robotics Rule at QCC!

As part of QCC's commitment to STEM education and as part of QCC's ongoing K-12 technology outreach efforts, QCC is hosting some exciting robotics events in the coming weeks! The tournaments and scrimmages run by **Betty Lauer**, QCC staff and volunteers are exciting to watch and a testament to QCC's STEM expertise. Stop by and catch some of the action as teams from all over New England compete:

On March 1 and 2, the New England Regional VEX Robotics Championship will be held at QCC's Hebert Auditorium for middle and high school robotics teams. Eighty New England high school teams will compete for spots at the VEX Robotics World Championships in Anaheim, CA in April. The competition starts at 8:00 a.m. and runs all day, concluding on March 2.

In addition to the high school teams, forty middle school teams and 30 elementary school teams from New England will also compete on Saturday, March 1 and Sunday, March 2 at Worcester Technical High School, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The elementary school teams competing from Worcester are all products of Betty Lauer's Robotics Program, now in its 11th year.





Run Hide Fight

QCC Campus Police Chief Kevin Ritacco would like to remind the QCC Family that personal safety at all QCC locations is of the utmost importance. Please review the 6-minute video, "Run-Hide-Fight" at www.QCC.edu/run-hide-fight produced by the City of Houston, TX with a Department of Homeland Security grant. Also watch for information on bulletin boards, *The Open Door* and QCC e-mail for an upcoming QCC Family viewing of the video.

Institutional Research and Planning Reminder!

The deadline for the spring 2014 Strategic Plan Implementation Fund is Thursday, March 6. Based on the focus of the Vision Project and the College's Strategic Plan, proposals should have a positive impact on retention and student success.



Awards for spring proposals will be granted on or about April 21 after being reviewed by the Steering Committee led by **Dr. Ingrid Skadberg**, Director of Institutional Research and Planning, and the E-Team. For more information, proposal forms and scoring rubric, contact **Meredith Galena** at mgalena@qcc.mass.edu



Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society News

On Sunday, March 9, PTK will march in the annual Worcester St. Patrick's Day Parade. Marchers and those interested in committing to marching should stop by room 154A to pick up a 50th Anniversary Commemorative T-shirt to wear while marching! We are looking for additional participants so please spread the word. The parade starts at 10:00 a.m. and follows a 3-mile route. This is to commemorate QCC's 50th Anniversary and is NOT limited to Phi Theta Kappa membership in any way!

Save the Date: On Sunday April 6, PTK's Alpha Zeta Theta Chapter will hold its 6th Annual Bowl-A-Thon for the Jimmy Fund, "Rally Against Cancer" at AMF Auburn Lanes from 12:00 noon – 5 p.m. Registration is from 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. Don't miss out on the fun - Raffles, Bowling, Pizza, and more! (Raffle tickets are available to purchase now in the PTK Office, room 154A and the list of prizes is extensive! All proceeds benefit the Jimmy Fund.)

Save the Date!

Mark the dates for these upcoming events that you won't want to miss:

- North Wing Art Gallery Opening Reception on Wednesday, March 19, 5:30-7:00 p.m. in the Administration Building (first floor).
- The 16th Annual Spelling Bee on Thursday, April 3, 7:00 p.m. at the Hebert Auditorium.
- The 17th Annual Foundation Golf Classic, Driving for Scholarships on September 15 at Cyprian Keyes Golf Club in Boylston, MA.



For more information on the Spelling Bee or the Golf Classic, contact Alexandra Bavosi at 508.688.0700 or email abavosi@qcc.mass.edu.



QCC Welcomes New Staff

We are very pleased to announce the addition of the following new full-time staff members to Quinsigamond Community College:

On February 9, 2014, Administrative Services welcomed **Ellen McLean** into a new role as Accountant I. Ms. McLean has served the College for two years as a Clerk III in Financial Aid. In addition, she brings 19 years of experience working in higher education within various departments including Admissions, Graduate and Continuing Education, Accounts Payable, Student Accounts and Registrar's Office.

On February 10, 2014, Administrative Services welcomed **Ryan Lowe** into a new role as First Cook. Mr. Lowe has served the College for almost eight years as a Sous Chef in Food Services. In addition, he brings almost 12 years of experience working as a Head Cook and Cook I within restaurant and hospital settings.

On February 10, 2014, Administrative Services welcomed **Kayla Markarian** into a new role as Function Coordinator. Ms. Markarian has served the College for two years as a part-time Function Coordinator and four years as a Cashier in Food Services. In addition, she brings six years of experience working in office and dining room management.

Please join us in welcoming Ms. McLean, Mr. Lowe and Ms. Markarian into their new roles at QCC!

Have an interesting story to tell?

www.QCC.edu/submit-news

Deadline for the March 2014 *Guardian* is Friday, March 14.



Soothe your winter-weary soul with a bit of the color, joy and promise of spring that flowers bring.

All photos by Rich Small.

